

REMARKS

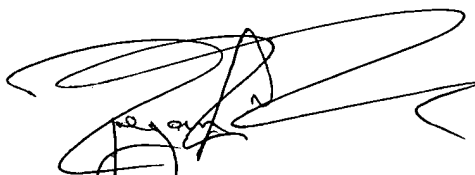
In response to the outstanding Office Action mailed on April 11, 2003, claims 6, 15, 22, 26, 38, 45, 47 and 49-51 of the present application are amended herein. Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-21, 23-25, 27-37, 39-44, 46 and 48.

The Examiner has indicated that the now pending claims were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The now pending claims have been so rewritten.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (970) 679-3275

Respectfully submitted,
Sontag *et al.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Regan L. Trumper', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large loops and a prominent 'R'.

Regan L. Trumper
(Registration No. 38,345)

Tel. No.: (970) 679-3275